for its rejection was that Gandhi's assent had not been obtained.

While the League and Mr. Eden continued with their efforts, Mussolini proceeded with his military preparations; and on October 2, 1935, a telegram was received at Geneva from Haile Selassie announcing that Italian troops had crossed the Abyssinian frontier. Once more a policy-holder came forward to claim benefits due, and once more the directors met to consider the claim, this time unable to resist, or for long delay the conclusion that 'the Italian Government had resorted to war in disregard of its obligations under Article 12 of the Covenant of the League of Nations.' Newsboys appeared in the streets with bills announcing the forbidden thing—* War P; this time the forbidden word was spoken, no incident, or conflict, or embroglio, or tension, but authentic "War.

Even so, it was a minor war, involving black men, not white; in Africa, not Europe. An army of journalists descended upon Addis Ababa, where they lived, quarrelsome and restless, in a single hotel, looking for news and finding little, or none; occasionally attempting to visit the fighting zone, and rarely succeeding. They were like high-mettled steeds expecting a battle-charge, and left tediously grazing; among them one old war-horse, Sir Percival Phillips, who alone, to their, and perhaps his, surprise, covered himself with glory by exclusively reporting the only sensational item of news which emanated from Addis Ababa. To the Abyssinian capital, inevitably, flocked many with arms to sell, loans to negotiate, concessions to acquire. These, acting on the assumption that where blood

flows money will also flow, are always to be found in war's precincts. So many coming and going, getting or not getting the interviews they sought, left the journalists off their guard; and it was only Sir Percival who detected a special significance in the mission of Mr. F. W. Rickett, envoy of the African Exploration and Development Corporation, a subsidiary of the Standard-Vacuum Oil Company. He took the precaution of seeing Mr. Rickett off at the station when he left Addis Ababa, and there learnt that he had succeeded in obtaining for his company an important